

Ben Cook

From: Malika Abdul-Basir
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2012 9:09 AM
To: Ben Cook
Subject: FW: Support for HB 5246 on Smart Zones

One more in support for HB 5246

From: Dayne Walling [<mailto:dwalling@cityofflint.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2012 8:14 AM
To: Rep. Wayne Schmidt (District 104)
Cc: Malika Abdul-Basir
Subject: Support for HB 5246 on Smart Zones

Dear Rep. Schmidt,

I am writing to express my support for the legislation you introduced to allow the MEDC to create two new Smart Zones in Michigan.

As the Mayor of Flint and a member of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation Executive Committee, I believe it is critical that this successful initiative be expanded to fully leverage the State's regional assets to promote entrepreneurship, job creation, and innovation.

In the Flint region, for instance, we have seen remarkable growth in the tech entrepreneurship ecosystem with the support of Kettering University--one of the leading engineering colleges in the country. Through their TechWorks program and their Innovation Center, there is now a strong base of more than 40 tech start-ups to work with and a further goal of having 100 earlier stage concept teams by the end of the year. In the past 3 years, the Kettering programs have educated 400 people about how to commercialize great ideas into viable start-ups. This provides a base for both future companies as well as employees. Each of the universities has strengthened offerings related to entrepreneurship and Mott Community College's FabLab at the Regional Technology Center is an excellent resource of statewide significance for design, prototyping and proof-of-concept models.

Thank you for your leadership on this and please let me know if there is any assistance I can provide as the process moves forward.

Sincerely,
Dayne Walling

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